

Part B

WORKING GROUP REPORTS – Biological Data (USGS)

1. Program/Activity Name: **Biological Data Working Group**
2. What are the specific federal programs this data supports? **Any program that uses biological data whether they are geospatial or not.**
3. Uses of Data: How does your data benefit customers and support agency missions? **The work of the group focuses on cross cutting standards related to biological data, e.g. the Biological Profile of the Content Standard for Digital Geospatial Data and work to develop a Biological Nomenclature and Taxonomy Data Standard.**
4. Charter/Plan: Do you have a current charter or plan for collection? If so - please describe (include how recently the charter/plan was implemented and whether it is in need of update). **There is a current charter for the FGDC Biological Data Working Group that was approved in 1997 and does not need additional updating at this time.**
5. Metadata Status: Is metadata discoverable and served through the NSDI Clearinghouse? What percentage of this theme's data has metadata and is in a Clearinghouse node? **The Biological Profile of the Content Standard for Digital Geospatial Data is used in the NSDI Clearinghouse.**
6. Standards: What is the status of this theme's data, process, transfer, and classification standards? **Biological Profile of the Content Standard for Digital Geospatial Data, FGDC-SDT- 001.1- 1999 complete and is included in ongoing ISO standards process. Work continues on the development of a Biological Nomenclature and Taxonomy Data Standard.**
7. Progress: List FY 2001/2002 activities/progress to date (quantify where possible).
 - a) **Two additional (four total) Fact Sheets (Proposed FGDC Biological Nomenclature and Taxonomy Data Standard and Descriptions of Selected Biological Data Programs and Activities of Individual Member Agencies and Organizations) were published and are being distributed.**
 - b) **Two FGDC sponsored workshops involving government and non-government experts/stakeholders were held to develop candidate data models for the Proposed FGDC Biological Nomenclature and Taxonomy Data Standard.**
 - c) **Work to adjudicate differences in the candidate data models and consensus building continue.**
 - d) **All information relevant to the activities of the FGDC Biological Data Working Group are maintained on its website**
<http://biology.usgs.gov/fgdc.bio/index.html>.
8. Policy: Do you have a formal agency policy in place for full and open access or data sharing? **N/A** Are you able to fulfill this policy and provide public access with your current agency financial resources as allocated or are you in pursuit of collaborative federal partnerships to support data access? **N/A**
9. Are there areas or issues regarding lead responsibilities for spatial data themes that require attention, or lessons-learned that you would like to share with others? Please describe. **N/A**